

Existing Works — Restoration Tradeoffs and Benefits

Category	Component	Year						
		1987	1988	1988	1988	2004	2004	2004
		U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)	Assembly Office of Research (AOR)	National Park Service (NPS)	University of California, Davis (UCD)	Environmental Defense (ED)	University of California, Berkeley (UCB)
Recreation Infrastructure	Transportation							
	Roads			✓				✓
	Trails			✓				✓
	Lodging							
	Campsites			✓				✓
	Café/Store/Lodge			✓				✓
	Visitor Center			✓				✓
	Visitor Day Capacity			✓				✓
Ecosystem Infrastructure	Minimal Management			✓	✓			✓
	Moderate Management			✓	✓			✓
	Intensive Management			✓	✓			✓
Societal Benefits	Use		✓	✓				✓
	Non Use		✓	✓				✓
Ecosystem Benefits			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Project Costs	Recreation							
	Ecosystem Restoration							
	Minimal Management							
	Moderate Management							
	Intensive Mahagement							

Note: Check mark does not mean information is adequate, only that some discussion or information is available.

Economics

Potential benefits from restoring the Hetch Hetchy Valley:

Use benefits:

Benefits arising from actually being physically in the valley or using the valley

- e.g. Hiking, camping, sightseeing
- Highly dependent on the level of recreation development

Published estimates of use benefits:

- AOR reports expected annual visitation of:
 - Low development – 400,000
 - Medium development – 600,000
 - High development – 1,000,000
- UCB reports annual use benefits of
 - Low development \$14-15.5 million
 - High development \$17-35 million

Non use benefits

Benefits that derive from knowing the resource exists, even if individuals have no intention of visiting the restored valley

Published estimates of non use benefits:

- No existing studies of the non use benefits of a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley were found.
- There are existing studies of non use benefits of Mono Lake and Lake Elwha



Existing estimates on both use and nonuse are scarce and were generated using many assumptions regarding the level of development and the amount of restoration undertaken and are provided with a low degree of confidence.

Next steps:

- Economic study to assess potential benefits from a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley

Revealed preference models, including travel cost and property value models

- Encompass mostly use values

Stated preference models such as contingent valuation

- Encompasses use and nonuse values

In cases where there is no existing market for the benefits of a resource, economists rely on survey methods that allow individuals to express their willingness to pay for the resource in question

- Use and Non use are difficult to disentangle in any study

Information needs

- Level of development and most likely restoration scenario
- Method of dam removal

- Investigate the economic impacts on the surrounding communities and the region from both the dam removal and from the different recreation opportunities that could be available after restoration.



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